

## **Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 66**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 138**

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 66—Relative to the high school exit examination.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 22, 2003.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

ACR 66, Pavley. High school exit examination.

This measure would urge the State Board of Education to continue to delay the requirement for graduation of passage of the high school exit examination until issues are resolved regarding appropriate testing methods for pupils with disabilities. The measure would also encourage the State Department of Education to develop, and the State Board of Education to adopt, guidelines regarding the method and content of alternate assessments to the high school exit examination for pupils with disabilities who cannot participate in the examination and for whom accommodations or modifications are not appropriate.

WHEREAS, Commencing with the 2005–06 school year, each pupil completing grade 12 will be required under existing law to successfully pass the high school exit examination as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation or as a condition of graduation from high school; and

WHEREAS, The State Board of Education has acted pursuant to existing law to delay the date upon which each pupil completing grade 12 is required to successfully pass the high school exit examination due to the fact that many pupils have not yet had sufficient opportunity to learn the subject matter tested on the examination; and

WHEREAS, The failure rate of pupils with disabilities in the most recent administration of the high school exit examination was 87 percent; and

WHEREAS, While it is recognized that these pupils will have additional opportunities to pass the examination, the prospect of only 13 percent of pupils with disabilities meeting standards for a high school diploma is unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, Notwithstanding specialized reading instruction and test preparation classes, the vast majority of pupils with learning disabilities will still have their processing problems that originally qualified them for special education; and

WHEREAS, Federal law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), generally requires that pupils with disabilities be included in general state and districtwide assessment programs, with appropriate accommodations if necessary; and

WHEREAS, The significant language delays of pupils who are deaf and pupils who are blind cannot be adequately remediated or accommodated in the majority of the cases to allow a passing score; and

WHEREAS, Accommodations or modifications to the examination are not suitable for many pupils with learning disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The IDEA requires the state or local educational agency, as appropriate, to develop guidelines for the participation of pupils with disabilities in alternate assessments for those pupils who cannot participate in the assessment programs and to develop and conduct those alternate assessments beginning not later than July 1, 2000; and

WHEREAS, The State of California does not have an alternate assessment to the high school exit examination; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate concurring,* That the Legislature hereby urges the State Board of Education to continue to delay the requirement for graduation of passage of the high school exit examination until the above issues are resolved regarding appropriate testing methods for pupils with disabilities; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature hereby encourages the State Department of Education to develop, and the State Board of Education to adopt, guidelines regarding the method and content of alternate assessments to the high school exit examination for pupils with disabilities who cannot participate in the examination and for whom accommodations or modifications are not appropriate; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the State Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

